

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LA PAZ 05886 271400Z

45

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01

OPR-02 SY-10 OMB-01 TRSE-00 NIC-01 DRC-01 /159 W

----- 077895

R 271226Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1070

INFO USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 5886

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB PINT BL

SUBJ: STATUS REPORT ON STRIKE SCENE

BEGIN SUMMARY. BANK EMPLOYEES RETURNED TO WORK SEPTEMBER 26 FOLLOWING TWO-DAY STRIKE, WHILE OFFICERS OF BANK WORKERS CONFEDERATION BEGAN HUNGER STRIKE TO OBTAIN RELEASE OF IMPRISONED LEADERS. SOME FACTORY WORKERS ALSO RESUMED WORK IN LA PAZ ON SAME DATE. GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO MAINTAIN FIRM ATTITUDE OF OPPOSITION TO CURRENT STRIKES, WHILE BOTH MNR AND FSB HAVE ADOPTED ENERGETIC MEASURES TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR SUPPORT FOR GOVERNMENT POSITION. END SUMMARY.

1. BANK WORKERS, WHO HAD INITIATED STRIKE TWO DAYS PREVIOUSLY IN PROTEST AT DETENTION OF BANK WORKERS CONFEDERATION LEADER MARIO PAZ SOLDAN, RETURNED TO WORK SEPTEMBER 26. IN COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCING SUSPENSION OF STRIKE, ACTING LEADERS OF CONFEDERATION EXPRESSED THEIR DETERMINATION TO ENGAGE IN HUNGER STRIKE UNTIL IMPRISONED LEADERSHIP OF THE UNION IS RELEASED. MEANWHILE, OTHER ELEMENTS OF LABOR SECTOR--INCLUDING SOME FACTORY WORKERS --ALSO RESUMED WORK SEPTEMBER 26. KEY MINE WORKERS UNION IS  
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PAGE 02 LA PAZ 05886 271400Z

MEETING ON SAME DATE WITH PRESIDENT BANZER TO DISCUSS CURRENT

SITUATION IN

LABOR MOVEMENT. CERTAIN OTHER UNIONS, SUCH AS  
CONSTRUCTION WORKERS, CAMPESINO WORKERS  
AND MNR-CONTROLLED RAILWAY WORKERS, HAVE EXPRESSED DETERMINATION  
NOT TO BECOME INVOLVED IN A POLITICALLY-MOTIVATED STRIKE MOVEMENT.

3. GOVERNMENT REACTED FIRMLY TO STRIKES BY BANK AND FACTORY  
WORKERS, ALTERNATELY CALLING UPON WORKERS TO RETURN PEACEFULLY  
TO THEIR JOBS AND THREATENING TO SECURE DISMISSAL OF THOSE WHO  
DID NOT RETURN.  
SIMULTANEOUSLY, MILITANTS OF BOTH MNR AND FSB INTERVENED FORCEFULLY  
TO PREVENT SUCH BANKS AS MNR-DOMINATED BANCO DEL ESTADO AND  
FSB-CONTROLLED BANCO AGRICOLA AND CAJA NACIONAL DE SEGURIDAD  
SOCIAL FROM JOINING STRIKE MOVEMENT. MNR ALSO ISSUED COMMUNIQUE  
SEPTEMBER 26 UNDER SIGNATURE OF JUAN JOSE RIVERA, SECRETARY  
-GENERAL OF PARTY, AFFIRMING ITS TOTAL SUPPORT FOR SECKIITY  
MEASURES ADOPTED BY GOVERNMENT AND CALLING UPON WORKING CLASS  
TO SUPPORT POSITION ADOPTED BY MNR ON THIS ISSUE.

4. AT REQUEST OF "BLOQUE INTERSINDICAL", IN WHICH MOST OF MAJOR  
LABOR UNIONS ARE REPRESENTED, ARCHBISHOP OF LA PAZ JORGE  
MANRIQUE ALSO HAS INTERVENED IN DISPUTE IN ORDER TO BRING  
ABOUT MORE AMPLE DIALOGUE BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND LABOR MOVEMENT.  
MEDIATION EFFORTS OF MANRIQUE APPARENTLY WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN  
SECURING AGREEMENT OF BANK WORKERS TO END THEIR STRIKE,  
DESPITE GOVERNMENT'S ANNOUNCED UNWILLINGNESS TO  
RELEASE PAZ SOLDAN AND OTHER IMPRISONED LABOR UNION LEADERS.  
STEDMAN

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**TAGS:** ELAB, PINT, BL  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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